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INFORMATION REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

USSR (Lithuania)

SUBJECT

Roads and Terrain in the Panevezys and Pumpenai Areas/Partisan Activity

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The area east and northeast of Panevezys (Panevezhis) is covered with dense woodlands. They begin approximately 10 kilometers from Panevezys and approximately eight to 10 kilometers east and southeast of Pumpenai. Pumpenai is located approximately 18-20 kilometers north of Panevezys. The woodlands were approximately 25-30 kilometers long and from 15-20 kilometers wide.
2. Most of the trees in this forest were evergreens with short and long needles. The foliage was very thick. The height of the evergreens varied. Some were as tall as 60 feet. The foresters would cut these trees into three sections of 20 feet. This forested area was considered to be one of the largest in Lithuania. The lumber from this forest was hauled to Piniava, which was located approximately two to four kilometers north of Panevezys. A lumber mill was located at Piniava.
3.  it would be possible to hide from the authorities in this forest. It would be possible to find deer, rabbits, squirrels and birds in the woods. Fish could be found in the swamps, marshes and streams which ran through the woodlands. In summer it would be possible to find wild berries, apples, mushrooms, nuts, and other types of edible vegetation.
4. A number of creeks run through this area. They varied in width, anywhere from eight to 12 feet wide, and a depth of from one to three feet. It was possible to drink the water from the creeks. The water had a brown color and a sweet taste. The creeks had a muddy-clay bottom and could be crossed anywhere by horse and wagon or on foot.
5. The Levena (Levuo) River flowed through the forest. It flowed westward from Kupiskis to a point approximately one kilometer south of Piniava, then it swung northward up toward Pasvalys and Birzai, and eventually circled and flowed right back toward Kupiskis. Kupiskis is approximately 75-80 kilometers east northeast of Panevezys.

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6. A wooden bridge was located approximately one kilometer south of Piniava and crossed the Levena River. The bridge was on the loose-surfaced, all-weather, graded road, which ran [redacted] from Paneveze northward to Birzai (Birzhai) via Pumpenai. The wooden bridge was from 50-60 feet in length. 50X1-HUM
7. The Levena River also varied in width and depth. In some sections it would be 30 feet wide, and in some 12 feet wide. The depth was anywhere from two to five feet. It was also possible to drink the water from the Levena River. It had a brown color and a sweet taste. This river had a muddy-clay bottom.
8. The terrain of the region was flat. The soil was fertile black dirt.
9. Until 1940 the forest did not contain many wolves, as they were shot by the villagers, farmers and foresters. However, as of 1956, [redacted] wolves in the area, which were of white color, have increased. This is because the weapons of the villagers and farmers have been confiscated by the Soviets, making it impossible for the people to hunt wolves. 50X1-HUM
10. During World War I the Germans attempted to clean out the partisans from the forest but failed. In 1956 some of the people in Lithuania wrote to their friends in the US, telling them that some partisans are still operating in and around the forest. 50X1-HUM
11. [redacted]
12. Assistance would be given refugees and partisans who needed food, shelter, and information by approximately 90% of the villagers, farmers and foresters. The other 10% would refuse for fear of reprisals. However, when questioned, no natives would admit knowledge of partisan activity. 50X1-HUM
13. A number of narrow dirt roads [redacted] ran through the forest. They were from three to four meters wide. They were used for short-cuts, inter-village communication, and to haul the lumber out of the forest. The dirt roads were not crowned, nor did they have drainage ditches running alongside. Twice a year the roads were resurfaced and repaired by the foresters, farmers and villagers.
14. In summer it was best to travel on the dirt roads which ran through the forest by horse and wagon. It was very difficult for vehicles because they would get stuck, as the ground was very soft. Dirt and mud would stick to the wheels. However, in winter it was much easier as the ground became a little harder. In winter the snow would be from three to four feet deep.
15. A number of cart tracks [redacted] which were approximately one to two meters wide also ran through the woodlands. They were also used for short cuts and inter-village communications. The cart tracks were never maintained and always had deep ruts, holes, and were very uneven. In winter most of the travel in the forest was by horse and sled or on old-fashioned snow shoes. 50X1-HUM

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